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Going on a Strange Hike in Japan

Learn how to use adjectives in the past affirmative and interrogative forms

Mark Complete

Also Appears In: Conversational Japanese for Absolute Beginners, Absolute Beginner Season 2

Dialogue - Japanese

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Kanji | English | Rōmaji | All

(At home)

A: ただいま。

B: おかえりなさい。

ハイキングは どうでしたか。

A: たのしかったですよ。でも…。

B: でも？ まむかったですか？

A: いえ。あたたかかったです。

B: でも。アイラーさん…。

C: ただいまー。ふー。つかれました。

B: へんな かお？ (laugh)

Vocabulary

Hide

English | Kana | Rōmaji

ハイキング [ハイキング]
hiking
1 EXAMPLE

1. きょう、ハイキングにいきました。
Today, I went hiking.

あたたかい [あたたかい]
warm; Adj(i)
1 EXAMPLE

1. あたたかいですね。
It's warm, isn't it?

ただいま。 [ただいま。]
I'm home.
1 EXAMPLE

1. ただいま。
I'm home.

へんな [へんな]
weird, funny, strange, Adj(na)
1 EXAMPLE

1. へんなあさけをのみました。
I drank some strange alcohol.

さむい [さむい]
cold ; Adj(i)
1 EXAMPLE

1. さむいですか。
Are you cold?

かお [かお]
face
1 EXAMPLE

1. かおがいたいです。
My face hurts.

でも [でも]
but, however
2 EXAMPLES

1. 私は、日本人です。でも、出身はニューヨークです。
I'm Japanese, but I'm from New York.

2. いぬがすきです。でも、ねこがきらいです。
I like dogs. But I dislike cats.

たのしい [たのしい]
fun, amusing; Adj (i)
2 EXAMPLES

1. たのしかったですね。
It was fun, wasn't it?

2. ディズニーランドは楽しいです。
Disneyland is fun.

おかえりなさい。 [おかえりなさい]
Welcome back., Welcome home.
1 EXAMPLE

1. おかえりなさい。
Welcome home.

つかれます [つかれます]
to get tired, be fatigued with,V2
1 EXAMPLE

1. ゲームをしました。つかれました。
I got tired from playing video games.

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Lesson Notes

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Lesson Focus

The Focus of This Lesson Is Asking and Saying How Something Was.
ハイキングは どうでしたか。
Haikingu wa dō deshita ka.
"How was the hike?"

In this lesson, you'll learn how to ask someone how something went using *…wa dō deshita ka* as well as how to describe how something was in response to this question using adjectives in the past tense.

"How was school?"

It's very easy to ask someone how something was or how something went in Japanese. All you need to do is say **[event/place/thing] wa dō deshita ka** and then add the question "How was it?" This question is made up of the word for "how," which is ***dō***, the past tense of *desu*, which is ***deshita***, and the "question mark," which is ***ka***.

Formation

[Event/place/thing] *wa dō deshita ka*

"It was boring."

So, first of all, how do you make a past tense adjective?

With *-i* adjectives like(おいしい (*oishii*, which means "fun"), it's pretty easy. Simply take off the final *-i* and add the past tense かった (*-katta*). See the table below for some more examples.

Formation

adj. -i* → adj. -katta

1. Take your *-i* adjective (**iannoshii**: "fun")
2. Drop the final *-i* (**iannoshi**)
3. Add *-katta* (**iannoshikatta**)
4. Add *desu* (**iannoshikatta desu**)… and that's it!

For Example:

MEANING	NON-PAST	PAST
"fun"	たのしい *tanoshii* "is fun"	たのしかった です *tanoshikatta desu* "was fun"
"boring"	つまらない *tsumaranai* "is boring"	つまらなかった です *tsumaranakatta desu* "was boring"
"interesting"/"funny"	おもしろい *omoshiroi* "is interesting/funny"	おもしろかった です *omoshirokatta desu* "was interesting/funny"
"hot"	あつい *atsui* "is hot"	あつかった です *atsukatta desu* "was hot"
"cold"	さむい *samui* "is cold"	さむかった です *samukatta desu* "was cold"
"warm"	あたたかい *atatakai* "is warm"	あたたかかった です *atatakakatta desu* "was warm"
"cool"	すずしい *suzushii* "is cool"	すずしかった です *suzushikatta desu* "was cool"

* Try saying this three times fast! :)

So, to answer the question "How was [event/place/thing]?" all you need is a past tense adjective plus *desu* to make things polite. That's it!

If you're answering the question directly, you can of course leave out **[event/place/thing]** *wa*, as it's understood in the context.

If you like, you can add a *yo* on to the end of your answer in order to add emphasis to what you're saying.

Formation

[Event/place/thing] *wa adj.-katta desu*

For Example:

1. A: とうきょうほどうでしたか。
Tōkyō wa dō deshita ka.
"How was Tokyo?"
B: たのしかったです。でも、あつかったです。
Tanoshikatta desu yo. Demo, atsukatta desu.
"It was fun. But it was hot."
2. A: きのうのえいがはどうでしたか。
Kinō no eiga wa dō deshita ka.
"How was the movie yesterday?"
B: ・・・つまらなかったです。
…Tsumaranakatta desu.
"…It was boring."

Reference

Please also review the following Lesson Notes.

- Adjectives → Absolute Beginner Season 1 Lesson 15

Key Vocabulary & Phrases

★ただいま (tadaima)
Tadaima is a set greeting that literally means "just now." It's a shortened version of an old phrase meaning "I have just now returned." You say this when you arrive home, usually as the door is opened, to announce your presence to whomever is inside, who will usually then reply with…

★おかえりなさい (okaerinasai)
This is the pair phrase to tadaima, and it means "welcome home." You say this in response to someone else's tadaima ("I'm home"). You can often hear it shortened to *okaeri*, which is more casual and less polite.

★へんな (hen na)
Hen na is an adjective meaning "weird" or "strange." For example, へんなひと (*hen na hito*) is a common phrase meaning "a weird person" or "a strange person."

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Grammar

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Below is a list of the grammar points introduced or used in this lesson. Click for a full explanation.

過去形	kakokei past tense	introduced
～ほどうですか	wa doudesu ka how is	introduced

Lesson Transcript

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